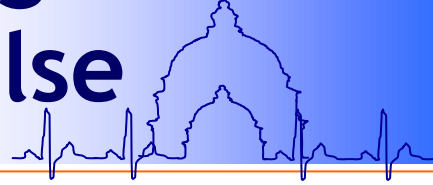




7-2-2009

Legislative Pulse



Health Policy News and Events

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Education (ED) and Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street, have teamed up to launch a new, national public service advertising campaign designed to encourage American children and families to practice healthy habits and to take steps to prevent the spread of the 2009 H1N1 flu virus. The PSAs featured in this campaign can be viewed on www.flu.gov.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced more than \$25.7 million in grants to increase and improve health and support services at the nation's health centers. [More...](#)

HHS Grant to Boost Enrollment

Efforts to get more uninsured Kansans enrolled in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) got a big boost this week with the announcement of a five-year, \$40.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The grant from HHS's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will be used to a new technology for the state's enrollment system, replacing a computer system that's more than 20 years old, as well as outreach efforts aimed at getting more people who are eligible for Medicaid and SCHIP to sign up for benefits.

"This grant couldn't come at a better time, as we gear up to implement the expansion of SCHIP that the legislature authorized this year," said Dr. Andy Allison, Acting Executive Director of KHPA.

Beginning in January, the income limit for SCHIP eligibility in Kansas will increase from 200 percent to 250 percent of the 2008 federal poverty level, or \$44,000 per year for a family of three.

The grant and the enrollment efforts it will fund were made possible through the support of the Kansas Health Foundation, the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, Kansas Action for Children, the Kansas Health Institute and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

KHPA Welcomes Newest Board Member; Veteran Member Reappointed

Dr. William Reed, M.D., was appointed in August to a seat on the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board, while Dr. Vernon Mills, M.D., was reappointed for a second term.

Dr. Reed is a noted cardiologist and a faculty member at the University of Kansas Medical Center. A surgeon for more than 40 years, Reed was present for the first open heart surgery performed in the Kansas City area in 1956. In 1972, as a resident at KUMC, he founded MidAmerica Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Inc. He currently chairs KUMC's Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Save the Date

Monday, Sept. 7:
Labor Day Holliday.
KHPA and most
other state offices
will be closed.

**At-Large Advisory
Council:** 1-3 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 8.
Curtis SOB, Conf.
Room 530. 10th &
Jackson, Topeka

**KHPA Board Meet-
ing:** 8:30 a.m.—4
p.m., Tuesday,
Sept. 15. EDS Of-
fices, 6700 SW
Topeka Blvd.,
Topeka Air Indus-
trial Park, Bldg.
283 “J” St.,
Topeka.

Data Consortium: 1
-4 p.m. Tuesday,
Oct. 6. Conf. Room
106, LSOB, 9th &
Jackson, Topeka.

Advisory Council Meetings Underway

The Kansas Health Policy Authority is soliciting input from its four advisory councils about policy initiatives to be submitted to the legislature next year and ways to meet next year’s budget reduction targets.

The Provider, Purchaser and Consumer councils each met the week of Sept. 1-4. The At-Large council is scheduled to meet Tuesday, Sept. 8.

KHPA has been asked by the Division of Budget to trim about \$2 million, or 5 percent of its operating budget for Fiscal Year 2011, which begins July 1, 2010. That’s equal to about 1 percent of the agency’s total budget, which includes Medicaid caseload expenses.

The councils are being asked to comment on the five options that KHPA staff presented to the Board at its Aug. 18 meeting. Those options, which add up to about \$6 million, include: raising premiums for the State Children’s Health Insurance Program; charging co-pays for non-emergency care provided in emergency rooms; aligning reimbursement rates at 83 percent of Medicare reimbursement rates; streamlining prior authorization procedures for certain prescription drugs; and implementing pharmacy management for mental health prescription drugs.

The Board is scheduled to review budget options and vote on a budget request to submit to the administration at its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

New and Reappointed Board Members (Continued from Page 1)

Reed was named to the Board by Kansas Senate President Steve Morris to succeed E.J. “Ned” Holland who resigned earlier this year.

Also in August, Gov. Mark Parkinson reappointed Dr. Mills to a second term on the Board. Dr. Mills is a pediatrician who practices in Leavenworth. He has served on the Board since it was established in 2005. He graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine,